

5. On Specimens of the Male and Female of *Phasianus humiæ*, from Munipur, with a Description of the latter. By Lieutenant-Colonel H. H. GODWIN-AUSTEN, F.R.S., F.Z.S., &c.

[Received November 21, 1882.]

(Plate LI.)

The two specimens of *Phasianus humiæ* which I have the pleasure of exhibiting this evening were obtained by Mr. M. Ogle, of the Topographical Survey of India, on the peak of Shiroifurar, in North-east Munipur, upon the Naga-hills boundary—a great mass of peculiar dark-green trap-rock which rises here through the sedimentary rocks to an altitude of about 9000 feet. It was the last point on that side that I reached myself in 1873, when surveying the boundary along with the political officers, Col. Mowbray Thomson and Capt. John Butler. I then collected some very interesting birds and land-shells; but although that winter we got specimens of *Cerionis blythi*, we neither saw nor heard of this beautiful Pheasant. Nor was Tangal Major (who was attending us on the part of the Raja of Munipur) then wearing its feathers as an ornament in his head-dress; or we should have been very soon on the look-out for the bird. Mr. Ogle, to whom my best thanks are due, writes from Munipur thus:—"I got two capital Pheasants here, which Nagas had trapped on Shiroifurar, badly skinned; or rather the flesh had been left on the wings and would have gone bad; but I had them skinned and turned inside out, and took out all the flesh. Tangal Major, to whom the Nagas brought the birds, made them over to Trotter, the acting Political Agent; and the latter kindly gave them to me when I told him I was collecting for you." Our thanks are therefore due to all three for the sight of these interesting birds here this evening. Mr. Ogle continues:—"I was at Shiroifurar for about a week, and had men out every day, but was not fortunate enough in getting any thing of this sort." This is not to be surprised at; for the forest is very heavy, and it is a mere chance coming upon any birds and seeing them in the underwood.

The discovery of *Phasianus humiæ* in the northern hills gives it a much more extensive range than Mr. Hume supposed; and we have, I expect, both walked over the bird many a time. It is no doubt to be found throughout the Munipur hills on the north-east, and very probably extends up the Jhiri valley, nearly to the Burrail range.

The male bird was first obtained by Mr. Hume to the south of the Munipur valley, apparently with a good deal of trouble, of which he gives the history in 'Stray Feathers,' vol. ix. p. 463; and I extract his description of the male bird in full. The interesting point of the present communication is the description of the female, before unknown, which I am now fortunate in being able to draw

up, with the hope that it will be also figured in the 'Proceedings' of this Society.

Mr. Hume may well be proud of having discovered this beautiful addition to the Phasianidæ and to the birds of India; but I much regret that he did not give it the title of *munipurensis*, so significant of its home, and to which it seems almost restricted, although it no doubt extends eastwards along the main range, the Patkoi, some distance. How close it gets to its nearest ally, *Phasianus ellioti* (from Che-kiang in Eastern China), and what other intermediate forms are yet to be found in that vast unexplored tract of forest-clad mountains that intervene between Manipur and the Singpho country, is an interesting point. A grand field lies here for future travellers and naturalists. Judging from what I have received from the neighbourhood of Brahmakund, and the number of yet undescribed shells in my collection, a great change in the fauna from that of the country west sets in here, and extends into that of Szechuen, where Père David obtained so many new and novel forms of animals and birds.

#### *Original description.*

"*Male.* Length 33 inches, expanse 26, tail (of sixteen feathers) from vent 21, wing 8·6, tarsus 2·75, bill from gape 1·3. Weight 2 lb. 6 oz.

"The legs, feet, claws, and spurs (the latter 0·85 inch in length) all a pale delicate drab-brown; the facial skin an intense crimson; irides orange; bill greenish horny, dusky on cere and base of upper mandible, and pale yellowish horny towards the tips of both mandibles. A narrow black band bounds the anterior angle of the bare, velvety, crimson, diamond-shaped patch in which the eye is set; the forehead, crown, occiput, and ear-coverts are brown; the feathers of the occiput, especially on the sides of this and a few of those on the crown also, with a dark terminal hair-line, producing a somewhat scaly appearance; the chin, throat, neck all round, upper breast, and extreme upper part of the back a smoky black; all the feathers, except those of the chin and quite the upper throat, fringed with metallic blue-black, which, except on the front of the middle and lower throat, is, owing to the overlapping of the feathers, the only colour seen. Just inside the fringe, on all the feathers of the upper parts of the breast and back, there is a triangular or arrow-head black velvet spot; the interscapular region is dark metallic pheasant maroon, or red with a fiery crimson sheen, each feather with a similar subterminal velvet-black shaft-spot; middle and lower back, rump, and all but the longest upper tail-coverts black with a grey-blue sheen, each feather fringed with white; the longest upper tail-coverts and the tail grey-brown<sup>1</sup>; the central tail-feathers with eight rather narrow and irregular, mingled black and chestnut transverse bands<sup>2</sup>; the next pair, which are eight inches shorter,

<sup>1</sup> Or ashy grey with a brown tinge.

<sup>2</sup> In my specimen dark chestnut bands 0·4 inch wide with two parallel black bars on the basal side.

with five similar but broader black bands, only here and there showing a trace of a chestnut tinge; the bars on the next two pairs broader again, and a purer black; the three outer pairs broadly black at the tip, and the rest grey freckled with black.

"The inner scapulars silver-white, the innermost of all with large, subterminal, unsymmetrical, blue-grey spots, and the outer ones partially fringed at the tip with a somewhat purpler grey; the outer scapulars much the same colour as the interscapular region; the smallest wing-coverts a dull maroon; the rest of the lesser and most of the median coverts a dull dusky metallic green, but the longest median coverts a maroon chestnut; the primaries and greater coverts and winglet hair-brown, the first with the terminal one third or more of the outer webs a yellowish chestnut; the secondaries blackish interiorly, exteriorly chestnut, obliquely tipped with white and with an antepenultimate black band; tertiaries and their greater coverts similar, but more of the inner webs chestnut and their tipping transverse; secondary greater coverts blackish, broadly tipped white.

"The lower parts, below the upper breast, a rich maroon chestnut, but the feathers of the lower breast and its sides, and quite the upper abdomen with fiery crimson fringes (scarcely visible in some lights), preceded by a black shaft-spot; vent and tibial plumes brown; lower tail-coverts black, with a dull-green metallic sheen; wing-lining (except the lower greater primary-coverts, which are a delicate satin-grey) a pale brownish chestnut, the feathers narrowly margined with brown.

"The female is still unknown."

*Description of Female* (in the collection of Godwin-Austen).—Throughout of a pale ochreous brown tint, with a nude red patch surrounding the eye. Above—head rusty brown, each feather with a small black subterminal spot; the ground-colour fades on the back of the neck into pale ruddy ochraceous, each feather having a light spot with a subterminal black band; these merge into the darker feathers of the nape and upper back, where the above light spot becomes broadly white and triangular or arrowhead-shaped, set in velvet-black, the tip of the feather being ashy grey-brown. The lower back and rump is pale ochre-brown, speckled finely with black, the feathers having a subterminal large black spot or streak, this becoming larger towards the upper tail-coverts, which are more ruddy ochraceous, with splashes of black-brown near the webs. The tail is maroon or chestnut, the two central feathers tipped with white; a subterminal black bar three quarters of an inch from the end, and six imperfect bars of the same colour at the above distance apart, which do not extend across the shaft. The outer tail-feathers similar, but with no black on the outer webs, and only a slight indication of the black bar on the margin of the inner web. Below, including side of the neck, throat, and breast, of a dull pale sienna-brown, slightly greyish, some of the feathers on the side of the neck with small black tips. From the upper breast, the sides, thigh-coverts, to the abdomen the feathers have a

whitish-ochre centre and an edging of the same tint, producing crescentic barring or ornamentation to those parts; a few of the feathers on the right and left anterior breast have half the web black with a central white bar. Abdomen dull dingy pale ochreous. The under tail-coverts are mottled white, black, and ruddy brown; the longer feathers being tipped pure white, succeeded by a black bar, then rich chestnut, and black at the base. The scapulars and secondary coverts are, on the inner web, more or less velvet-black, mottled with the same colour on a sienna ground, on the outer web narrowly tipped whitish, forming three wing-bands (two distinct, one rather broken). The secondaries are mottled in the same manner with four irregular blackish bars crossing each feather, every bar margined on the outside with pale ruddy ochre and margined at the end with pale ochre. The primaries are dark sepia-brown, with four elongate ochre spots on the outer web, the inner web at all these points having a mottling of chestnut. Wing greyish within. Dimensions—wing 8·25 inches, tail 7·0, bill in front 1·0, bill from gape 1·2, tarsus 2·2.

The female of this species thus differs from that of *P. ellioti* in not possessing the black on the throat; besides, the white underparts of that bird (which are in keeping with those of the male) are also absent. The tail would appear to be the same; and the red nude skin round the eye is also to be made out.

When I first saw this bird, it reminded me very much of the coloration of *Bambusicola fytchi*, a common bird in the Naga hills, in spite of the difference in size and other characters; and certainly there is, in the lower back and rump, a curious similarity. Subdue in *B. fytchi* its rusty colouring, and reduce the black on the breast to the dull ochraceous barring of this Pheasant, and it would be still closer in resemblance; one can trace on the sides of the breast in *P. humilæ* that a few of the feathers are black, while in the *Bambusicola*, in the female, the outer tail-feathers are tipped blackish with a white edging.

This bird is a true *Phasianus*; and I do not consider that there are characters sufficient to place it in a new genus, as was proposed by Mr. Elliot when he created the term *Calophasis* in 1872 for *Ph. ellioti*.

# 6. Notes on a Species of Stick Insect reared in the Insect-House in the Society's Gardens. By ARTHUR THOMSON<sup>1</sup>.

[Received November 15, 1882.]

(Plate LII.)

One of the most curious and interesting insects that has been reared in the Insect-House during the past season is a species of Stick Insect (*Bacillus patellifer*, Bates, Trans. Linn. Soc. xxv.

<sup>1</sup> Communicated by the Secretary.